

*If you have any questions about this report, please call the Chairperson,  
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Trustees of Elizabeth Presbytery

**Trustees Motion regarding the use of funds derived from the sale of a church-owned Manse by the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Berkeley Heights for consideration by the Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on May 26, 2009.**

WHEREAS, the Westminster Presbyterian Church (“Westminster”) in 1997 sold a church-owned Manse realizing net proceeds of approximately one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars (\$185,000.00) and since that time, in accordance with the policy of the Presbytery has maintained the funds derived from the sale in a housing account, using the income from those funds to provide a portion of the cash housing allowance paid to its clergy; and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery’s policy, as reflected in its Procedure for the Sale of a Church Manse, provides that the mutual agreement of the Presbytery and the church, the funds derived from the sale of a Manses that is not needed in the foreseeable future for purpose of providing ministerial housing may be released for other uses by the church; and

WHEREAS, Westminster currently owns a three-bedroom colonial-style house with two-car detached garage that has been occupied by the church custodian, an arrangement that the Session expects will end in the near term; and

WHEREAS, the Westminster Session has concluded that, Westminster being in a period of rebuilding its ministry in Berkeley Heights, a portion of the funds currently in the housing account could be better used by investing such funds in the rebuilding effort which includes mission projects, outreach programs, additional alternative worship services, leadership training and development, and upgrading certain church facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Westminster Session has further concluded that future ministerial housing needs may be provided for through the use of the house located on church property either as a Manse or rental property with the rental income derived from the rental property used to fund cash ministerial housing allowances and that the funds in the Westminster housing account not used in the rebuilding effort would be adequate to make any repairs and renovations to the existing house needed to ensure its suitability for either ministerial housing or as rental property; and

WHEREAS, the a representative of the Westminster Session has met with the Trustees of the Presbytery (“Trustees”) to review Westminster’s financial condition, the reasonableness of the church’s plan for providing for future ministerial housing needs, and Westminster’s plans for the use of the funds they request the concurrence of the Presbytery to release for the purpose of supporting the rebuilding effort; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Trustees, the Session provided additional detailed information regarding the specific uses a portion of the funds in the housing account; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have concluded that the plan for the use of a portion of the funds in the Westminster Housing Account proposed by its Session, are reasonable and that the ministerial housing needs of Westminster are reasonably provided for; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have provided a description of Westminster's plan to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit for their information and have received no substantive objections to Westminster's plans;

**THEREFORE, the Trustees move that the Presbytery, at its Stated Meeting on May 26, 2009 concur with the plans of Westminster to use up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) of the funds derived from the 1997 sale of a Manse to support the mission, outreach, and facility improvement programs that are part of Westminster's rebuilding effort.**